

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

SCS-03 AID-20 IGA-02 OMB-01 RSR-01 /104 W

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R 150300 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3744

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E. O. 11652: NA/ A - DECLASSIFY 6/30/75

TAGS: CPRS, CASC, SOCI, AF

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

REF: KABUL 4295

1. MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES TOOK POSSESSION OF PREMISES OF NEW CHURCH BUILDING MORNING OF JUNE 13 AS PREDICTED AND BEGAN IMMEDIATELY TO DISMANTLE AND REMOVE PEAKED ROOF OF STRUCTURE. DEMOLITION WORK HAS PROCEEDED AT EXTREMELY SPEEDY AND NON- AFGHAN PACE WITH REMARKABLE CARE BEING EXERCISED TO PRESERVE ROOF PANELS AND OTHER MATERIALS INTACT AS THEY ARE REMOVED. CHIEF OF CONSTRUCTION FOR KABUL MUNICIPALITY TOLD Terman Charge who visited scene that his orders were to remove only the roof of the church and to do so as carefully as possible, a project which is technically difficult but apparently feasible. AS OF EVENING JUNE 14 BOTH OUTER ROOF AND INNER CEILING NOW REMOVED WITH A- FRAME GIRDERS REMAINING. WORKMEN OBSERVED CAREFULLY CRATING BUILDING MATERIALS AS IF FOR SOME FUTURE USE. LARGE NUMBER OF WORKMEN EMPLOYED BY MUNICIPALITY HAVE BEEN EXTRAORDINARILY CAREFUL TO PRECLUDE DAMAGE TO PREMISES OF OLDER BUILDING ADJACENT TO IT WHICH CHURCH CONGREGATION PERMITTED CONTINUE UTILIZE.

2. CCC BOARD SENT LETTER EXPRESSING THEIR POINT OF VIEW ON EVENTS TO PM JUNE 12, AND DISTRIBUTED COPIES TO MAYOR AND MEMBERS
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OF PROTESTANT CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY. LETTER, MODERATE AND
RESPECTFUL
IN TONE, LODGES CLAIM FOR FINANCIAL COMPENSATION AND EXPRESSED
CHURCH BOARD' S VIEWPOINT ON RECENT EVENTS, BUT BOWS PEACEABLY
TO RGA DECISION . NO REACTION AS YET FROM PM.

3. NO PASSIVE RESISTANCE NOR DISTRUBANCES HAVE DEVELOPED.

4. CBS TELEVISION NEWS TEAM IS IN KABUL, APPARENTLY BY CHANCE,
TO FILM STORY ON NARCOTICS MATTERS. ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE NOT
MENTIONED CHURCH CRISIS AS YET, IT IS ALMOST INEVITABLE THAT
THEY WILL RUN ACROSS STORY SHORTLY AND MAY RECORD EVENTS FOR
AMERICAN TELEVISION.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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